

# 3 Upton Soldiers Killed in Train Wreck, 40 Hurt

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WEATHER—Fair; warmer to-night.

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## BRITISH HOLD UP SEVEN HEAVY ATTACKS; FIGHTING TO WIN BACK NEUVE EGLISE

### THREE UPTON SOLDIERS DIE, 40 HURT IN TRAIN WRECK; CARS PILED UP IN DITCH

Privates of 305th Infantry, on Way From Camp, Killed Near Central Islip, L. I.—Broken Rail Blamed for Accident.

Three soldiers of the 305th Infantry were killed in a troop train wreck on the Long Island Railroad at 3.50 o'clock this morning, two and one-half miles east of Central Islip, L. I. Forty others were injured, and of these thirty were so seriously hurt that they are confined to Central Islip State Hospital. The dead are:

PRIVATE GEORGE MURPHY.  
PRIVATE EDWARD MOHAN.  
PRIVATE OSWALD HUDSON.

The names of the injured and the addresses of the dead have not yet been made public by the military authorities, who have established a censorship.

The official statement issued at Camp Upton, whence the men had been sent for a short leave, says: "Early this morning a Long Island passenger train, westward bound, containing in part soldiers from this cantonment, met with an accident. Five coaches were derailed and overturned and three soldiers were killed and a number injured. The injured received medical attention and will be returned to the camp. The cause of the accident has not been determined."

The statement then gave the names of the dead as above.

The train, which consisted of twelve steel cars, and the steel construction is believed to have averted a greater disaster. A broken rail, according to railroad officials, was the cause. The first two cars passed over it safely. The next five rolled down an embankment and piled up. Two others were derailed but remained upright on the road bed. The others remained on the track.

About 700 or 750 soldiers, most of them members of Companies E, F and G, 305th Infantry, were in the cars. These were mostly men from Manhattan, Brooklyn and Long Island towns.

**FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF PLOT TO WRECK TRAIN.**

Sheriff Lent of Central Islip, who reached the scene as a member of the earliest rescue party, said he had found no evidence of a plot to wreck the train, although somebody may have been guilty of negligence.

Railroad officials said the track had been inspected as late as yesterday, but a defective rail must have escaped observation.

The conduct of the uninjured soldiers was described by Sheriff Lent as "splendid." There was no sign of panic, he said, and the uninjured men extricated themselves calmly from the upset coaches and gave expert first aid to the injured.

"It demonstrated the value of the training they have been getting," the Sheriff said. "You would have thought that some of them were experienced surgeons—the way they handled wounds."

It was said that the injuries in

### LOAN TOTAL \$620,947,550; NEW YORK'S CONTRIBUTION NEARS A QUARTER BILLION

Every Public School in City Organized to Help Push Drive Along.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Liberty Loan subscriptions tabulated to-day at the Treasury showed a total of \$620,947,550, which is \$67,000,000 more than was reported Saturday. This did not include reports from the Minneapolis district, which started its campaign to-day.

To-day's total loan subscriptions in the Second Federal Reserve District, which includes New York, stood at \$248,400,000 at 11 A. M. These figures show the district for seven days of the drive an slightly in excess of its \$200,000,000 minimum quota.

The proportion would have been on the wrong side but for the New York City subscriptions, in the other sections of the district, New Jersey and up-State the result has not come up to requirements.

The following large subscriptions were registered to-day:

A. Rosbach & Co., \$250,000.  
Newcastle Leather Co., \$150,000.  
L. F. Rothschild & Co., \$150,000.  
R. Neumann & Co., \$80,000.  
Solomon & Phillips, \$40,000.  
L. M. Oshinsky, \$30,000.  
S. Dorfman, \$25,000.  
Superior Garment Company, \$20,000.  
National Sponge and Chemicals Company, \$20,000.  
Oscar Shorer & Brother, \$40,000.  
New Jersey Zinc Company, \$1,000,000.  
Sinclair Oil and Refining Company, \$1,000,000.

The long deferred Liberty pageant—which looked a whole lot like an old-fashioned circus parade to discerning people—started from Madison Square Garden promptly on the dot of 10 A. day had been set three times for this drive of the circus people in aid of the Liberty Loan and three times and snow and general casualness in the weather line had caused a postponement.

But to-day's bright skies were reflected in the double glory of the pageant. The circus band led the cavalcade, and that is "some band" when it comes to snappy jazz stuff.

Followed a troop of equestrians and equestriennes, if you know what that means, in nobby riding costumes and with the sun glinting from their two-quart hats.

What appeared from a distance to be a procession of bank vaults resolved itself, on nearer view, into a herd of twenty elephants. Each trundling pachyderm carried a big sign urging the purchase of Liberty Bonds.

The Liberty Loan Committee announced to-day that every public school in the city has been converted into a loan organization for the period of the Liberty Loan. The children are making daily reports to their teachers, all of whom have agreed to remain in the school buildings after hours to facilitate subscriptions. The interest taken in the drive by even the smallest kiddie has been a source of surprise to parents and teachers alike.

Miss Mary A. Higgins of Public

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### STEHLIN PLANE KILLS MECHANIC AND STOPS FLIGHT

Blades Grind Helper to Death as Liberty Loan Trip Was About to Begin.

The tragic death of Max Bessler, an airplane mechanic, under the eyes of 1,500 school children and many adult spectators at Sheephead Bay Speedway to-day abruptly put an end to the proposed Liberty Loan flight through the State of Lieut. Joseph Stehlin, the young Lafayette Escadrille flyer.

Bessler was run down by the aeroplane and beheaded by the sharp propeller blades just two minutes before the time Stehlin was to take his seat beneath the great wings and start with his freight of Liberty Loan literature to "boom" the cities of the State. After the fatal accident Joseph Hartigan, Chairman of the Speakers' Bureau of the Loan Committee, called the flight off.

To-day's tragic fatality marked the abrupt end of a succession of difficulties attending Lieut. Stehlin's efforts to get away. Three days last week the flight was successively postponed because of bad weather. Yesterday it was discovered that the quality of gasoline was poor and caused for the engine to stall. But to-day seemed auspicious in every respect.

Near noon, when the big biplane, with its powerful Gnome engine, capable of driving the canvas bird at 130 miles an hour was rolled out of the hangar, all the pupils from Public Schools 103 and 98, of Sheephead Bay, their teachers and many of Stehlin's friends were close by to wish the flying lad good-bye.

Maurice Berkman, head of the Berkman Aero Company of No. 257 Fourth Avenue, which constructed Stehlin's machine, was on the ground to see that everything was in first class order for the flight.

But a presage of disaster came when Bessler, the mechanic employed by the Berkman Company and the fashioneer of the plane itself, first spun the propeller to catch the engine spark. A flooded cylinder caught fire, Bessler's head smothered the thin tongue of flame with his coat.

Then Berkman got into the fuselage to tune up the engine again. Bessler took his place by the propeller. By a fatal oversight somebody held the wings of the plane.

After several unsuccessful attempts Bessler managed to twist the propeller to catch the spark and the engine roared. Then he stepped hastily back fifty or twenty feet from the front of the machine, but directly in the path it would take.

He heard a warning shout turned to see the great bird with its wings of propeller rushing upon him.

"My God!" screamed the doomed man and threw up his right hand as if to fend off the rushing machine. Then the bright bird came to an abrupt halt. Ten feet behind it lay Lieut. Stehlin. The top of his head was gone, his right wrist and left arm were severed. The propeller blades were splintered to matchwood.

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### AMERICANS REPULSE THREE GERMAN ATTACKS, FIGHTING WITH GRENADES AND BAYONETS

Thirty-four Raiders Killed in Trench and Thirty in Hand-to-Hand Clash in No-Man's-Land—More Prisoners Taken.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, April 15. (By the Associated Press).—Preceded by an intense bombardment of high explosives and poison gas shells, picked troops from four German companies hurled themselves against the American positions on the right bank of the Meuse, north of St. Mihiel, early yesterday morning, but were completely repulsed after terrific hand to hand fighting.

The Americans captured nineteen more prisoners. The German losses already counted are thirty-four dead and ten wounded, who were in the American trenches, and thirty dead in No Man's Land.

The French General commanding the troops in a neighboring sector personally congratulated the principal American unit's commander to-day on the excellent offensive qualities and the splendid resistance of the American troops. "With such men the cause of the Allies is sure to triumph," the French General wrote in his report to the French Army headquarters.

The doctors in the front line dressing stations also reported that several Americans who were slightly wounded refused medical treatment until the Germans had been driven back to their trenches. One man with a slight wound in his hand who was ordered to the rear later was found, according to the surgeons, "fighting like a tiger" in the front line.

A concentrated artillery fire on the American position in the St. Mihiel sector began Saturday morning. It was resumed with increased vigor just before midnight and continued intermittently until nearly daybreak. The Germans then laid down a barrage, leaped over the parapets and reached the American front line trenches closely behind the barrage.

At this moment the American infantry burst from their shelters, attacking the enemy with grenades and bayonets. The struggle continued back and forth for some time, but over most of the front involved the American troops were completely victorious, as was evident from the heavy toll of enemy dead and wounded.

At another point a large enemy force surrounded twenty-five Americans in front of their trenches. The Americans suddenly attacked and killed several of the Germans and returned to their trenches uninjured and bringing prisoners.

The American troops northwest of Toul again were subjected to a violent artillery bombardment on Saturday night. The American batteries sent back an equal number of shells. The Germans made no further attempt to penetrate the lines.

After a night of terrific artillery fire and a bombardment with gas shells, the Germans continued Saturday their efforts to drive through the third line of the American positions near Apremont Forest, northwest of Toul. They made two attacks, both of which failed. The enemy's casualties in the four days' fighting are estimated at between 300 and 400. Of this number more than 100 were killed.

Although the enemy wasted fully a half of his specially trained shock troop battalion of 800 men he was unable to penetrate the American lines, which remained unchanged.

Of the thirty-six prisoners taken by American troops in the fighting on Friday northwest of Toul, during which two German attacks in force were repulsed with heavy casualties to the enemy, twelve have since died of their wounds. The American troops also captured two German machine-guns, besides a quantity of small arms, grenades and other war material.

The prisoners taken belonged to the 27th and 63rd Landwehr units, the 17th Engineers and the 17th Trenchers. They had had no food for two days, the American artillery had prevented their return from

(Continued on Second Page.)

### FIVE WAVES OF GERMANS RUSH AT ONCE AGAINST HAIG; FRENCH GAIN AT HANGARD

Germans Suffer Tremendous Losses Northwest of Merville and Near Bailleul—British Advance Near Robecq and Take 150 Prisoners.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 15 (Associated Press).—The battle about Neuve Eglise, near the Belgian border, which has been retaken by the Germans, continued this morning with the same intensity that has marked it for days and the British are pounding the Germans hard.

Another assault on Bailleul, four miles west of Neuve Eglise, is expected momentarily.

The latest reports this forenoon showed that the British line was being strongly held as a whole in this northern zone, and in some instances had been considerably improved by counter-strokes.

The British last evening followed up their success of Saturday, when they pushed the Germans back from Robecq, on the Clarence River. Local counter-attacks delivered on the German positions 3,000 yards to the east of this town were successful, and the enemy again was forced to fall back somewhat.

The British, in the course of the afternoon, also pushed out several posts north of the canal between the Lawe and Clarence Rivers.

These operations indicate that the defense of the Entente Allied troops has stiffened.

The battle which has been raging about Neuve Eglise has been one of the most sanguinary of any since the German offensive began. On Friday night the Germans succeeded, after heavy hand-to-hand fighting, in gaining possession of the town. They held it through the night, but on Saturday morning the British drove forward and pushed out the enemy.

The Germans continued to fling great numbers of troops against the defense. Yesterday the British took the initiative and cleared the Germans from the slopes to the east and southeast of the town. The enemy kept on hammering, and after a night of severe fighting at close quarters, forced the British to abandon the village.

### GERMANS BATTLE ALL DAY, BUT FAIL TO DENT THE LINE

Get Into the British Trenches at One Point, but Are at Once Driven Back With Great Losses.

LONDON, April 15.—Following is the text of the British War Office statement:

"Severe fighting continued all day yesterday around Neuve Eglise. After beating off numerous attacks our troops were in the end compelled to withdraw a second time from the village.

"Strong attacks were made by the enemy yesterday afternoon at a number of other points on the battlefield. Northwest of Merville fierce fighting took place, as a result of which the attacking German infantry were driven back with great loss. The hostile infantry, advancing along the northern bank of the Lys, were caught by the fire of our artillery and were unable to develop their attack.

"In the course of the day no less than seven attacks were delivered by the enemy in the Merville sector, all of which were repulsed with heavy loss to his troops. In one case the enemy advanced to the assault in five waves. Under the weight of this attack our line was bent back slightly, but was completely restored by a counter-attack.

"Southwest of Bailleul parties of the enemy succeeded temporarily in penetrating our positions, but were driven out by our counter attack and our line was restored.

"Successful minor operations were carried out by us during the night east of Robecq. Several machine guns and 150 prisoners were captured by us.

"Fighting took place also early this morning south of the

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